

Application No. : 09/897,226 Confirmation No. : 9030
Applicant : McAuliffe, Kevin P.
Filed : July 2, 2001
TC/A.U. : 3622
Examiner : Bekerman, Michael
Docket No. : BOC9-2000-0071(206)

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed November 24, 2008 (Notice). As this submission is timely filed within the 1-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Office is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

It is stated in the Notice that amended Claims 1-20 and 23-46 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Although Applicants disagree, Applicants decide to file herewith a divisional application as suggested by the Examiner in the penultimate paragraph on page 3 of the Notice in an effort to facilitate prosecution of the amended claims.

Applicants believe that the divisional application with the amended claims is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this

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submission, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 23, 2008

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